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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 VO-03 OC-06 CCO-00 ABF-01 SS-15 L-03

/054 W
---------- 033124
R 091705Z JUL 73
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 236

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CVIS, CGEN, ACOM, UR, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSED MOSCOW-DEPARTMENT VISA TELEX

FOR SOV, VO AND A/OC

1. EMBASSY MOSCOW'S CONSULAR SECTION SENDS ABOUT 35 PERCENT OF THE POSTS 15,000 ANNUAL CABLES. MOST ARE UNCLASSIFIED CABLE TRANSMITTING NAMES AND DATA OF SOVIET VISA APPLICANTS. SOME LISTS, PARTICULARLY VISAS IBEX CREWLIST CABLES, ARE LENGTHY--OFTEN ABOUT 50 NAMES, SOMETIMES MORE THAN 300.

2. IN SEARCH FOR WAYS TO MORE EFFICIENTLY, EXPEDITIOUSLY AND ECONOMICALLY COPE WITH CLERICAL AND MECHANICAL BURDEN OF TRANSMITTING AND RECEIVING VISA DATA, EMBASSY SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT EXPLORE FEASIBILITY OF DIRECT UNCLASSIFIED VISA TELETYPE BETWEEN DEPT AND EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION WITH SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AS DESCRIBED BELOW.

3. EMBASSY ENVISIONS SYSTEM WITH TWO MACHINES AT EACH STATION--ONE CYRILLIC AND ONE LATIN-LETTER, WITH CAPABILITY TO MECHANICALLY TRANSLITERATE FROM CYRILLIC TO LATIN. WITH SUCH EQUIPMENT FSL COULD TYPE LISTS OF NAMES AND DATA IN RUSSIAN AS RECEIVED IN VISA APPLICATIONS, AND EMBASSY AND DEPT WOULD RECEIVE LATIN-LETTER PRINT-OUT. HEADINGS AND SERVICE MESSAGES WOULD BE TRANSMITTED ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LATIN MACHINE.

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4. IN ADDITION TO HAVING DUAL-ALPHABET CAPABILITY, SYSTEM WOULD DIFFER FROM EXISTING UNCLASSIFIED VISA NAME CHECK SYSTEM IN WESTERN EUROPE IN THAT IT WOULD PRIMARILY TRANSMIT NAMES AND DATA FOR DISTRIBUTION TO OTHER WASHINGTON AGENCIES FOR TRADITIONAL VISUAL FILE SEARCH. WE ASSUME AUTOMATION OF SUCH FILES IN WASHINGTON WOULD NOT WARRENT EXPENSE AT THIS TIME.

5. DIRECT TYPING ON TELEPRINTER OF NAMES AND DATA IN RUSSIAN PER PARA 3 ABOVE WOULD REPLACE PRESENT THREE STEPS HERE: A) TRANSLITERATION; B) TYPING OF CABLE IN LATIN LETTERS; C) PREPARATION OF TELETYPE TAPE BY AMERICAN PERSONNEL FOR TRANSMISSION OF CABLE IN LATIN LETTERS.

6. SINCE 212(D)(3)(A) WAIVERS OF 212(A)(28) INELIGIBILITY ARE OBTAINED FOR MOST NON-DIPLOMATIC SOVIET VISA APPLI-CANTS (WHO HAVE TO BE DEEMED PRESUMPTIVELY INELIGIBLE FOR REASONS OF THIER POSITION, TYPE OF PASSPORT, ETC.) MORE RAPID HANDLING OF MOSCOW-WASHINGTON COMMUNICATIONS APPEARS TO OFFER BETS HOPE OF REDUCING PRESENT LAG BETWEEN VISA APPLICATION AND EMBASSY ISSUANCE. AS US-SOVIET EXCHANGES, COMMERCIAL PROJECTS, AND OTHER COOPERATIVE VENTURES MULTIPLY, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT VISA TRAFFIC BE HANDLED EXPEDITIOUSLY.

7. WE UNDERSTAND PLANNED WASHINGTON-MOSCOW HOTLINE INFRA-STRUCTURE WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE SPARE CAPABILITY WHICH USG WOULD H(. THIS COULD POSSIBLY NEGATE ANY INTERNATIONAL LEASED LINE CHARGES.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT REQUESTED TO EVALUATE ABOVE PROPOSAL AND ADVISE FUNDS REQUIRED

EXEMPT.
MELENCAMP

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